

Report of Commissioning Officer

Report to Director of Children's Services

Date: 30/06/2015

Subject: Request to procure a service provider to Religious Education Consultancy/SACRE Support.



Are specific electoral Wards affected? If relevant, name(s) of Ward(s):	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Are there implications for equality and diversity and cohesion and integration?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Is the decision eligible for Call-In?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? If relevant, Access to Information Procedure Rule number: Appendix number:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

Summary of main issues

1. The report outlines the need to engage the services of a consultant(s) to undertake the work as the skills and knowledge is not currently available within LCC. A contract for an external consultant(s) would bring in the knowledge and expertise required to quickly develop effective working relationships with education settings. It will bring in expert(s) with suitable knowledge to advise the LA and local SACRE board of the statutory duties regarding RE.
2. Once a winning bidder is selected, post-tender negotiations may be required to refine the specification. Permission is required to be able to enter in to post tender negotiations.
3. The Contract would be put in place to deliver against the following key aims:
 - Monitoring and reporting on the provision for Collective Worship;
 - Manage and update the Leeds RE syllabus and contribute where appropriate to teaching materials to support the teaching of RE;
 - Devising and providing an offer of training and support for schools on a traded basis, particularly around the Leeds Agreed Syllabus and Fundamental British Values, and;
 - Development of the curricular response to Preventing Violent Extremism.
4. The anticipated contract start date will be September 2015. The contract length will be 24 months with three options to extend for 12 months each.

Recommendations

5. It is recommended that the Director of Children's Services approve the recommendation to undertake a competitive process in order to procure a consultant to deliver Religious Education Consultancy/SACRE Support.

1 Purpose of this report

- 1.1 To request the approval of the Director of Children's Services to procure a consultant to deliver challenge to Secondary Schools in Leeds.

2 Background information

- 2.1 Leeds City Council has a Learning Improvement Service within the Children's Services Department. This Service operates on a partially traded basis, where some support to schools is funded by the local authority and schools are able to access additional support on a traded basis.
- 2.2 The local authority has statutory duties concerning the delivery of RE and an external provider is required to consult on these.
- 2.3 An informal arrangement was in place but has since ended as the provider chose not to continue delivery.
- 2.4 A market testing exercise was undertaken in May, this identified 3 other potential providers of this service. A competitive process is required to ensure that Leeds City Council gets the best quality service available, that delivers value for money. The 3 potential providers will be asked to submit tenders.

3 Main issues

- 3.1 A new contract is needed by September 2015 in order to ensure the LA continues to meet statutory duties in relation to RE and schools provide a suitable RE curriculum.
- 3.2 It has been identified that the Directorate needs to engage the services of a consultant(s) to undertake the work as the skills and knowledge is not currently available within LCC. A contract for an external consultant(s) would bring in the knowledge and expertise required to quickly develop effective working relationships with secondary school head-teachers. It will bring in expert(s) with a suitable background in secondary school delivery to ensure the credibility of recommendations to schools.
- 3.3 The Contract would be put in place to deliver against the following key aims:
 - Monitoring and reporting on the provision for Collective Worship;
 - Manage and update the Leeds RE syllabus and contribute where appropriate to teaching materials to support the teaching of RE;

- Devising and providing an offer of training and support for schools on a traded basis, particularly around the Leeds Agreed Syllabus and Fundamental British Values, and;
- Development of the curricular response to Preventing Violent Extremism.

3.4 The process used to evaluate tender submissions and choose a provider will be written submissions and presentations from bidders. When evaluating the tenders for this piece of work, the price/quality split will be 60% quality, 40% price. A quality threshold of 60% will be used when marking tender submissions. The contract will be awarded to the highest scoring bidder who meets the threshold for the quality evaluation.

3.5 The anticipated contract start date will be September 2015. The contract length will be 24 months with three options to extend for 12 months each.

4 Corporate Considerations

4.1 Consultation and Engagement

4.1.1 The need for work has been identified within the Learning, Skills and Universal Service.

4.1.2 The panel for bid evaluation would involve representation from the Learning Improvement Service and the local SACRE board in order to ensure that delivery meets needs.

4.1.3 Suppliers will be asked to identify their proposals to meet the requirements of consultancy/SACRE support. The decision on which provider to appoint will be determined by the scoring of the proposed methodology and their perceived skill/experience. Scoring of tenders will be based 60% on quality and 40% on price.

4.2 Equality and Diversity / Cohesion and Integration

4.2.1 A screening document has been completed and is attached to this report (Appendix A - Equality, Diversity, Cohesion and Integration Screening tool). The outcome of this screening document indicates that a full impact assessment is not required.

4.3 Council policies and City Priorities

4.3.1 The contract will contribute to the outcomes identified in the Children and Young People's Plan, specifically that children and young people do well at all levels of learning and have the skills for life.

4.4 Resources and value for money

4.4.1 The maximum contract value will be £80,000.

5 Legal Implications, Access to Information and Call In

- 5.1 This contract is not subject to Call In under the provisions made in the Council Constitution.
- 5.2 The decision is Significant Operational as the contract will be for a consultant. Contract Procedure Rule 3.1.12 states that any decision for procurement of Consultants will, as a minimum, be treated as a Significant Operational Decision.

6 Conclusions

- 6.1 Having considered the options, the view of the project team is that procuring the services of an external consultant would be the most effective way of bringing in expertise required this academic year and of gaining clear recommendations for longer terms arrangements within LCC.

7 Recommendations

- 7.1 It is recommended that the Director of Children's Services approve the recommendation to undertake a competitive process in order to procure a consultant to deliver Religious Education Consultancy/SACRE Support.

8 Background documents¹

- 8.1 None

¹ The background documents listed in this section are available to download from the Council's website, unless they contain confidential or exempt information. The list of background documents does not include published works.